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To:
CC:
Date: 12/13/2013 2:57:46 PM
Subject: OPA Daily Digest 12/13/13



OPA Daily Digest for 12/13/13

Congressional Inquiries:

Rep. Vicky Hartzler (Mo.) – 12/11/13. Questions about EPA's process of approving generators for emergency shelters. Due: 12/12/13. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

State Government Inquiries:

None

Press Inquiries:

KTVI Channel 2, St. Louis – Bonita Cornute – 12/13/13 – Questions about recent engineering survey findings at West Lake Landfill in Bridgeton, Mo. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (closed)

Environmental Stories:

KSDK-TV - Sierra Club threatens lawsuit against Ameren Missouri over alleged 'Clean Air' violations - 12/12/13 - A national environmental group is threaten to sue Ameren Missouri over what it claims are several thousand violations of the Clean Air Act at three of its St. Louis-area coal-fired power plants.

<http://www.ksdk.com/story/news/local/2013/12/12/sierra-club-threatens-lawsuit-against-ameren-missouri-over-alleged-clean-air-violations/3999935/>

WOWT-TV - Iowa Continues Fight To Stop EPA Ethanol Reduction Plan - 12/13/13 - Gov. Terry Branstad and the state's entire congressional delegation are asking the Obama

administration to hold a hearing in Iowa to discuss the Environmental Protection Agency's proposal to reduce ethanol production in 2014.

<http://www.wowt.com/news/headlines/Iowa-Continues-Fight-To-Stop-EPA-Ethanol-Reduction-Plan-235724381.html>

The Daily Iowan - Iowa officials oppose lowering Renewable Fuel Standards -12/13/13 - Gov. Terry Branstad and Lt. Gov. Kim Reynolds joined Sens. Chuck Grassley and Tom Harkin, Reps. Tom Latham, Steve King, Dave Loebsack, and Bruce Braley, and Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Bill Northey to send a letter to President Obama and other officials opposing an EPA proposal.

<http://www.dailyiowan.com/2013/12/13/Metro/36066.html>

Omaha World-Herald - Iowans ask for hearing on proposal to cut ethanol blend - 12/13/13 - Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad and the state's entire congressional delegation on Thursday signed a letter to the Obama administration asking for a hearing in Iowa to discuss a proposal to reduce the amount of ethanol that must be blended into gasoline.

<http://www.omaha.com/article/20131213/NEWS/131219468/1707>

Radio Iowa - Elected officials ask for hearing in Iowa on Renewable Fuel Standard - 12/13/13 - Iowa's elected officials have sent a letter to President Obama, EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy and U.S. Ag Secretary Tom Vilsack urging the federal government to hold a hearing in Iowa on the EPA proposal to cut the amount of ethanol required to be mixed in fuel. The EPA announced a proposal to cut the amount of ethanol required in what's call the Renewal Fuel Standard by 3 billion gallons.

<http://www.radioiowa.com/2013/12/13/elected-officials-ask-for-hearing-in-iowa-on-renewable-fuel-standard/>

KTIV-TV - EPA testing for contaminated water, air in Le Mars, IA - 12/13/13 - You're doing it right now, breathing air. But, do you know if that air is contaminated? The Environmental Protection Agency has found some buildings in downtown Le Mars, Iowa, contaminated with something called PCE. The chemical was found in groundwater.
<http://www.ktiv.com/story/24209809/2013/12/12/chemicals-found-in-groundwater-at-businesses-in-le-mars>

Nebraska TV - York groundwater sites proposed for Superfund list - 12/12/13 - Two contaminated groundwater sites in York have been proposed for Superfund cleanup listing. The York News-Times says (<http://bit.ly/1bYBsZC>) the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced its intention on Wednesday to add the two sites to the Superfund National Priorities List.
<http://www.nebraska.tv/story/24201719/york-groundwater-sites-proposed-for-superfund-list>

Daily Finance - Time Running Out for Midwest Coal - 12/13/13 - Abundant natural gas, cost declines for renewables, and tight regulations from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are slowly killing coal-fired power plants in the U.S. This dynamic is playing out across the country, but the results will be particularly important in the Midwest, which will be ground zero for the fight over the changing electricity mix in the coming years.
<http://www.dailyfinance.com/2013/12/13/time-running-out-for-midwest-coal/>

eNews Park Forest - Unregulated Contaminants Found Widespread in U.S. Drinking Water - 12/13/13 - A recent survey conducted by researchers at the U.S. Geographic Survey (USGS) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) found traces of 18 unregulated chemicals in drinking water from more than one third of U.S. water utilities. Of the 21 total chemicals found, researchers discovered among them 11 perfluorinated chemicals, an herbicide, two solvents, caffeine, an antibacterial chemical, a metal and an antidepressant.
<http://enewspf.com/latest-news/science/science-a-environmental/48738-unregulated-contaminants-found-widespread-in-u-s-drinking-water.html>

Trucking Info - Federal Court Rules Against EPA in Navistar Engine Case - 12/13/13 - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has lost a fight with truck engine makers over an earlier decision allowing Navistar International to sell earlier models of its engines with exhaust gas recirculation technology, even though they did not meet federal emissions rules.
<http://www.truckinginfo.com/news/story/2013/12/federal-court-rules-against-epa-in-navistar-engine-case.aspx>

Bloomberg BNA - EPA, Corps Say Benefits of Protecting Wetlands, Streams Far Outweigh Costs - 12/13/13 - Subjecting an additional 3 percent of U.S. waters and wetlands to Clean Water Act regulation would yield nearly twice as much in benefits as it would cost affected industries, according to a cost-benefit analysis of a draft rule obtained by Bloomberg BNA.
<http://www.bna.com/epa-corps-say-n17179880702/>

Huffington Post - The Climate Post: Clean Air Rules Face Scrutiny as World's Largest Emitter Develops Climate Plan - 12/13/13 - Oral arguments were held Tuesday to determine the legality of a rule that regulates air pollution crossing state lines. Before the U.S. Supreme Court was the issue of whether the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) exceeded its authority by designing state limits for air pollution when it developed the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule (CSAPR), which was intended to take effect in January 2012. In particular, the court considered whether the EPA's determinations of upwind states' "significant contributions" to air pollution in downwind states were consistent with the language of the Clean Air Act (CAA).
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/tim-profeta/the-climate-post-clean-air_b_4439806.html

Tire Business - EPA: 2012 models' fuel economy a record - 12/13/13 - Higher sales of vehicles with smaller engines, gasoline-electric hybrids and diesel powertrains helped boost the average fuel economy of 2012 new vehicles sold in the U.S. 1.2 mpg to 23.6 mpg.
<http://www.tirebusiness.com/article/20131213/NEWS/131219945/epa-2012-models-fuel-economy-a-record>

New American - EPA Water Police Coming to Your Farm, Business — and Back Yard - 12/13/13 - The clock is ticking on the federal Environmental Protection Agency's draft proposal to grab regulatory authority over virtually all surface water and groundwater throughout the United States. If not stopped by Congress, the agency could assert jurisdiction over even intermittent seasonal streams, isolated wetlands, ditches, trickles, puddles, and ponds.
<http://www.thenewamerican.com/tech/environment/item/17164-tna-online-epa-water-regulators-coming-to-your-farm-business-and-back-yard>

Government Executive - With Staff Changes, EPA Sharpens Climate Focus - 12/13/13 - The head of the Environmental Protection Agency is shuffling the agency's staff to put greater focus on President Obama's climate agenda.
<http://www.govexec.com/management/2013/12/staff-changes-epa-sharpens-climate-focus/75483/?oref=dropdown>

Voice of America - Midwest Farmers Concerned With EPA Changes to Ethanol Standards - 12/13/13 - In November, the Environmental Protection Agency proposed lowering the mandated amount of ethanol mixture in the nation's gasoline supply. Current law requires refiners to use 68 billion liters of ethanol by 2014. The proposed changes would cut that requirement to about 56 billion liters. Farmers in the midwestern United States who produce corn used to make ethanol say the proposed changes could hurt them financially.
<http://www.voanews.com/content/midwest-farmers-concerned-with-epa-changes-to-ethanol-standards/1809328.html>

Press Releases:

Link to all R7 press releases: <http://go.usa.gov/Qx5>

None

Fact Sheets:

Link to all R7 fact sheets: <http://www.epa.gov/region7/factsheets>

None

Upcoming Administrator/RA Events:

* New additions noted with an asterisk

12/16/13 – Interagency Environmental Leadership Council, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Ron Hammerschmidt, 7566

12/16/13 – West Lake Landfill CAG Meeting, St. Louis, Mo. Contact: Hattie Thomas, 7762

12/18/13 – Missouri Agribusiness Association Annual Convention, Columbia, Mo. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557

12/19/13 – Four State Directors Meeting, Regional Office, Wendy Lubbe, 7551

DRA:

12/19/13 – Four State Directors Meeting, Regional Office, Wendy Lubbe, 7551

RA/Immediate Office

None

Other Events

AWMD

None

CNSL

None

ECO/EJ

None

ENSV

None

PLMG

None

RA/OPA

None

SUPR

None

WWPD

12/16/13 – Environmental Protection Agency / Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Public Water System Supervision meeting, Jefferson City, Mo. Contact: Neftali Hernandez-Santiago, 7036

12/18/13 – Area Wide Drinking Water Optimization meeting, Jefferson City, Mo. Contact: Neftali Hernandez-Santiago, 7036

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